residential accommodation in hotels. Strict instructions have been issued to get these vacated with immediate effect. Those who have not vacated by the specified date that is October 31, 2001 would be , charged full market rate.

Protection of Buddhist Stupa in Farukhabad, U.P.

3025. SHRI VEN'BLE DHAMMAVIRIYO: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that recently a historic "Buddhist Stupa" has been discovered at Sankashya in Farukhabad district of Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the action taken to excavate this site and to find out its historic background and importance; and

(c) the steps taken to preserve and protect this important historic place for pilgrimage and tourism?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) and (b) Sir, the recent excavation conducted by the Archaeological Survey of India from 1995 to 1997 at Sankisa (ancient Sankashya) in district Farukhabad, U.P. has not yielded any "Buddhist Stupa" However, some structures and objects ranging in time from the 9th century BC to AD 3rd century has been found.

(c) The site is under the protection of the Archaeological Survey of India.

Development of Parinirvan-Sthala In Khushinagar, U.P.

† 3026. SHRI DEVI PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal to formulate a new programme of development and facilities to make Khushinagar of U.P. favourable for tourism; and

(b) what is the number of tourists visiting every year at

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

"Parinirvan-Sthala" of Buddha in Khushinagar?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) Development of tourist places is primarily undertaken by the State Governments/UT Administrations. Department of Tourism, Government of India, however, provides some financial assistance for tourism projects prioritized in consultation with them every year. The details of projects sanctioned at Khushinagar during the 1st four years of the Ninth Plan are as under:—

SI. No.	Year	Name of Project	Amount Sanctioned (Rs. in lakhs)
1	1997-98	Visitor Centre	Rs. 39.84
2	1998-99	Yatri Niwas	Rs. 39.93

(b) The number for domestic and foreign tourists who visited Khushinagar during 2000 is estimated as 1,22,641.

More Yatri-Niwas in Gujarat

3027. SHRI AHMED PATEL: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Yatri Niwas presently catering to the tourists in Gujarat;

(b) whether Government propose to increase their number in the State for the benefit of low co-t tourists;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) Development and promotion of tourist places/ Yatri Niwases is the responsibility of the State Government of